RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 24th July, 1989/2 Sravana, 6 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. **Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, has the Opposition in the Lok Sabha sent in their resignation letters ? We want a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no information.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : In the Lok Sabha they have resigned. It is a force. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 82. Question No. 81 is transferred.

*81. [*Transferred to the 28th July*, 1989].

*82. [*The questioner (Shri Prabhakar Rao Kalvala) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 29.. infra].

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : We want to know whether the Opposition have sent in their resignation letters in the Rajya Sabha also. Lok Sabha resignation is a farce, we know. But have the Rajya Sabha Members also resigned ? (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 83.

Canadian cooperation in oil sector

*83. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:†
SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada has offered further cooperation in the oil sector; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what was the outcome of the discussions the Petroleum Secretary had during his recent visit to Canada; and

(c) whether the Canadian petroleum companies are expected to bid for oil exploration contracts in India when the next round of offers are made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) An Indian delegation led by Secretary (Petroleum & Natural Gas) visited Canada recently to explore the possibilities of furtherance of mutual cooperation. Certain possible areas of mutual cooperation have been identified. Discussions were also held about possible financial assistance. A Canadian delegation is expected to visit India in the coming months for further discussion in this regard.

(c) Some Canadian Petroleum Companies have shown interest in oil exploration contracts in India.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister what are the possible areas of mutual cooperation which have been identified, and what are the specific projects that the Government has in mind for such a collaboration, and whether the Canadians have shown any interest in gas pipeline projects ? If so, what are the details thereof ?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : Sir, the major areas which have been identified, they are experts in defining heavy grade crude, which contains a lot of residues. This is the first

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.

area. Second, one of the companies have shown interest in periodic exchange of information on the latest technological development, and the third area is new technique in designing for gas and crude transportaion in Canada. That is a good experience for us. They have offered us an assistance of $190 million also for oil and gas sector for procurement of equipment and services from Canada. Out of this, about 30 per cent will be grant and 60 per cent will be loan. Then the fifth area is that, the ONGC and one of the Canadian companies, Aberrata Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority, they have exchanged a draft memoranda which provides for exchange of specific and technical apprentices and development of joint projects etc. We can benefit from their experience in the main areas of handling heavy crude, development of marginal fields and treatment of gas. Specific projects will be discussed with them when they come over here.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Sir, may I know whether any memorandum of understanding has been signed between Canadian Aberrata Sands Technology and Research Authority and the ONGC ? If so what are its main features ?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : Sir, the ONGC has signed an agreement with export development corporation of Canada. That was signed on the 9th September 1988 and they have extended a line of credit worth U.S. $ 80 million for purchase of goods and services supplied by the Canadian exporters to the ONGC. The loan under this agreement will be 60 per cent of the value of capital goods and 38 per cent will be from Canadian international development agency in the form of grants.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any joint ventures are proposed to be taken up with Canada, whether in the private or the public sector. If so, what are the details ? Secondly, I would like to know whether India has invited equity investment. If so, has any offer been received ? Thirdly, what are the terms and conditions of financial assistance whether it is tied up with India receiving Canadian equipment and consultancy services ?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : Sir, I have already answered this question while replying to the hon. lady Member. The credit which has been extended is for the purchase of equipment from Canada. But the joint venture scenario will be clear when they visit us and we have discussions with them. This is because, in Canada, we can deal with private oil companies also and we will have to discuss with them in detail. All such proposals which may be forthcoming will be decided on technical and financial merits.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Is it tied up with the purchase of Canadian equipment and technology ?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : It is not tied up. Joint ventures, as such, are not tied up.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Is the financial assistance tied up with the purchase and use of Canadian machinery and other things ?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : If we purchase equipment, they will give us loans and grants. This is the normal practice.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : This is what I have asked.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many questions have been asked about the future plans. I would like to know whether it is a fact that compared to American companies, Canadian oil companies have offered much better terms of co-operation with India in the oil field. If so,

what is the hitch and why there is delay in accepting these terms ?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : There is no delay in accepting the terms. For each project and each programme, offers are received and then they are examined on merit at the earliest. We go by technical and financial considerations.

*84. [*The questioner (Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 30 infra.]

*85. [*The questioner (Shri Chitta Basu) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 30 infra.]

*86. [*The questioner (Shri Kamal Morarka) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 31 infra.]

*87. [*The questioner (Shri Parvathaneni Upendra) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 31 and 32 infra.]

Shortage of power in the Capital

*88. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of power in the country, particularly in the Capital;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to overcome this shortage; and

(d) what is the estimated availability and consumption of power in the Capital at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

During the period April, 1989—June, 1989, the power shortage in the country was 8.9%. The power shortage in Delhi during the same period was about 1.2%.

The State-wise power supply position during April, 1989—June, 1989 is given in Annexure.

Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generating capacity; implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing Transmission and Distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

During the month of June, 1989, the energy requirement in Delhi was 710 million units against which the availability was 699 million units.